

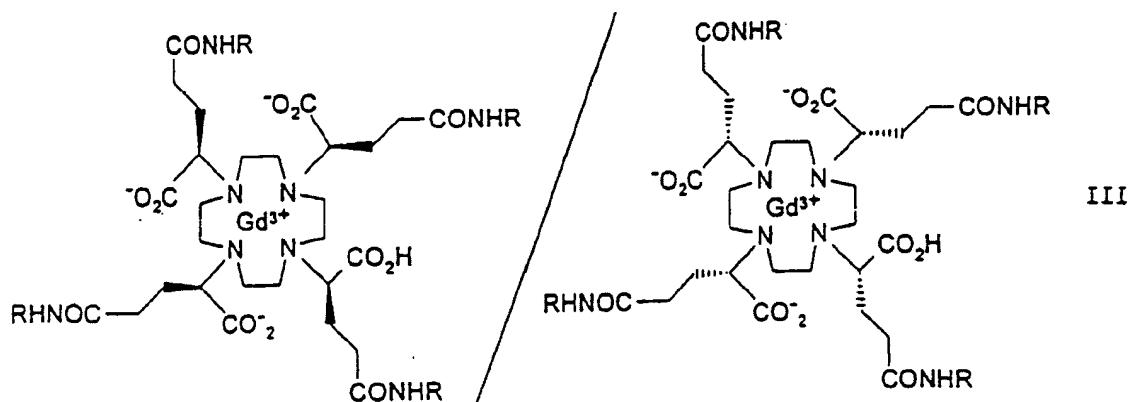
**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

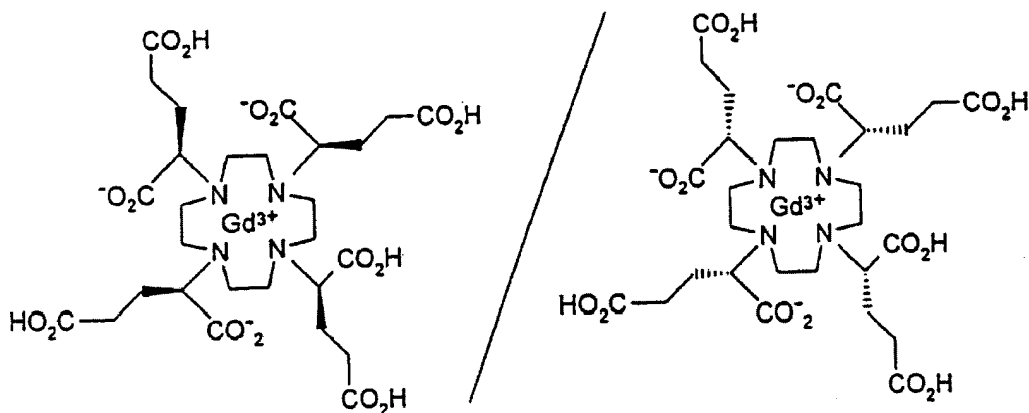
25. (new) Process for the preparation of a racemic compound of formula III



in which R is phenyl group or a linear, branched or cyclic ( $C_1$ - $C_8$ ) alkyl group which are substituted or interrupted by one or more groups selected from the group consisting of phenyl, alkyl, oxy, amino and amido groups, which may or may not be substituted by alkyl, it is being possible for the phenyl groups also to be substituted by one or more groups selected from the group selected from OH, Br, Cl, I, ( $C_1$ - $C_8$ ) alkyl, ( $C_1$ - $C_8$ ) alkyleneoxy  $NO_2$ ,  $NR_xR_y$ ,  $NR_xCO_y$ ,  $CONR_xR_y$  and  $COOR_x$ ,  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  being ( $C_1$ - $C_8$ ) alkyl or H, and it being possible for the linear or branched or cyclic alkyl groups to be hydroxylated,

which consists:

- in keeping an aqueous solution of the mixture of the stereoisomers of the gadolinium complex of 1, 4, 7, 10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetra (2-glutaric acid), with a pH of between 2 and 4.5, at a temperature of greater than 70 °C for a few hours to a few days, so as to obtain the racemic mixture of octaacids of formula:



- in reacting this mixture with the same amine  $RNH_2$ , with an agent which activates the acid functional group.

26. (new) Process according to claim 25, in which the solution of complexed octaacid is maintained at its reflux temperature for 35 to 45 hours at pH 3.